

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 4 with the following amended paragraph:

The channel 8 works by communicating data in order, i.e. the n-th data item communicated will arrive after the (n - 1)th item and before the (n + 1)th data item. Thus the execution unit 27 makes n requests for n items of data and these requests are passed in the requested order over the channel 8 and the data is retrieved from the FIFO 16 of the VDC ~~4~~ 6 and returned to the CPU 2 in that order. This process makes use of the standard “data”, “valid” and “taken” signals used by FIFOs (the taken and valid signals are sometimes known as “request” and “grant” signals). This process is explained in the following paragraphs with reference to an item of data.